

# critical digest



139 East 47 St. NY 17 NY  
EL 5-6894 T.M. Kraus

Jul 10, 1961 Vol XIII No 16 The Weekly NYC Theatre Newsletter Digest Service-Published 52 weeks a year- \$25 per year

## This Week in NYC

Another new Off Broadway playhouse to house productions of its owners was announced for fall. "Stage 73", a 199 seat theatre, will open at 321 E 73rd St. World Theatre Co. (James Truax, Geoff Le Baito, Al Kavanagh, Pierre Lamarre) plan to present four productions per season in the small theatre to be constructed in the dance hall of the National Bohemian Hall. The bar and restaurant will be available for playgoers. \$67,000 has been raised to cover construction of the theatre and production for the first season. Several other Off Broadway producers are planning to open their own theatres in the fall.

## Plays

Rhinoceros will close in NY Aug 6, play a month at the Edgewater Beach Theatre, Chicago, and return to Broadway Sept 5. Ralph Meeker and Dolores Sutton replaced Eli Wallach and Dolores Sutton, with Zero Mostel moving up to star billing.

The Sound of Music vacationing Jul 3-17...Richard Rodgers and Samuel Taylor to collaborate and produce musical based on an original story in 1962...The Diamond Orchid a new play by James Lawrence -Robert E Lee to be presented in fall by Robert Whitehead - Gilbert Miller...The 27th Wife, biography of Brigham Young's last wife by Irving Wallace to be adapted by Wallace and Jerome Weidman, Franklin Shaffner to direct.

## Theatre Record Notes

The Gay Life original cast album to be recorded by Capitol, The Crime of Giovanni Venturi by Columbia, and How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying by RCA.

## Theatre Film Notes

"Season of Passion" is new title of film version of Summer of the 17th Doll...Ed Begley signed for Sweet Bird of Youth film...Walter Pidgeon signed for Advise and Consent film.

## NYC Calendar

Susan Slept Here-41st St (125 W 41)-7/11. Barbara Grimer-Eleanor Horn present revised version of play by Steve Fisher and Alex Gottlieb, second two week production of "All Star Summer Comedy Festival." Matt Cimber directed, with Alan Dale, Joy Harmon.

The Student Prince-Greenwich Mews (141 W 13) 7/13. American Savoyards, Stella Holt, David Lipsky present limited two week revival of Sigmund Romberg musical, directed by Dorothy Raedler, with L D Clements, Raymond Allen, Mary Ann Staffa.

## Players

Natalie Ross, understudy, moved up to leading female role in Come Blow Your Horn, replacing Sarah Marshall...Mass replacements in The Best Man - Tom Gorman for Lee Tracy, Arthur Storch for Frank Lovejoy, Barbara Berger for Leora Dana...Howard Da Silva, Fiorello!, returned after a three week vacation, Russ Brown subbed...Anna Maria Alberghetti, Carnival, continued in role despite eight inch cut in her left foot suffered while swimming...William Hutt to be featured in Sail Away...Nan Martin and Rod Steiger to co-star in The Short Happy Life in Nov, an adaptation of Hemingway stories by A. E. Hotchner...Patrick Waddington to appear in Kean...Robert Shaw to star in The Caretaker...Fred Keating, 64, died.

## Broadway Business

Variety reported very uneven business with sellouts continuing at--Camelot, Carnival, Mary Mary. Ten shows gave Jul 4 matinees with sellouts at--Bye Bye Birdie, Do Re Mi, My Fair Lady.

## Theatre TV Notes

CBS to present The Power and the Glory two hour adaptation with Laurence Olivier Nov 26 at 9 PM...NBC to present one hour "The Ziegfeld Touch" Nov 26 at 10 PM...Rain with Marilyn Monroe cancelled by NBC.

## Off Broadway

Noontide which was scheduled to close plans to run indefinitely...Fig in Her Bonnet closed after 23 performances...O Marry Me musical version of "She Stoops to Conquer" to open Gate Repertory season in fall, Christopher Hewitt director...Children of the Center Ring a new play by Gerald Sanford to be presented in fall by Theatre Arts Productions.

Papa is Home a new play written and produced by Monroe Schneir to be directed in Nov by Amnon Kabatchnik, after he stages The Buskers. He will also direct next season Adam the Creator, an adaptation of Karel and Josep Kapek play by Dora Round.

## Legal Dept

Treasurers and Ticket Sellers Union rejected League of NY Theatres request to renew contract with no changes.

## Theatre Magazine Notes

"Show" first monthly edition to appear Sept 12, \$1..."Show Business Illustrated" first biweekly edition to appear Aug 23, 50c.

## NY Shakespeare

NY Dept of Parks to test daytime week-end presentation of full-length Shakespeare recordings at Forest Park, Queens and Prospect Park, Brooklyn.

## Pay TV Notes

The Second City Revue, Chicago musical which started its pre-Broadway tour in Hollywood, was shown Jul 6-8 on Toronto Pay TV at \$1.25 per set.

## Play Diary

Troilus and Cressida-Stratford, Conn 7/23...Little Hut-41st St 7/25...Midsummer Night's Dream-Central Park 8/2

## DIGESTS OF CURRENT NYC THEATRE REVIEWS

**Mermaid's Holiday** - Flushing Meadows Amphi - theatre - 6/29. 7 mild pros-unanimous-filed on water - show and vaudeville program presented week-ends Thur to Sat only by Dick Randall-John McKnight, staged by McKnight with Lynn Burke, Frank E Marlowe, Devani-Bernae Dancers, Ray Bloch's orchestra and Zahbra, a swimming Manchurian tiger. All approved of the low - priced (\$95c-\$2.25) entertainment at outdoor stadium as fine warm-weather entertainment for the entire family. Calta, Times, okayed water show by any other name which offers a lot at low prices. Salmaggi, Herald Tribune, enjoyed pleasant summer evening's outing, and reminded that price-wise the fan can't go wrong. Silver, News, applauded most attractive escape entertainment, a well-paced collection of water and land variety acts. Shuldiner, Mirror, liked refreshing and fast-paced summer entertainment entry in its ideal setting with built-in air-conditioning. Herridge, Post, recommended this year's production at 6000 seat theatre because it was more simplified, more forthright and a more genuine water show than previous editions. Lapole, Journal American, pointed out that show was not a Broadway production but as family entertainment it's a whopping good entertainment bargain; tuneful, colorful melange, skillfully presented. Aston, World Telegram & Sun, loved the beautiful poolful of mermaids and also fell for the female tiger, who swims in her own small tub.

**Annie Get Your Gun** - Brunswick, Maine 6/30. Johnson, Post, filed a pro notice on Brunswick Summer Theatre revival of Irving Berlin-Herbert & Dorothy Fields 1946 musical, produced by Victoria Crandall, directed by Edward Navor with Jo Hurt, Lawrence Brooks in the leading roles. Fast pacing, excellent casting, first rate musical standards, imaginative costumes - sets lighting brings a Broadway climate, applauded Post music critic.

### CUTTING NY PRODUCTION COSTS

League of NY Theatres are reported to have agreed unanimously to hold down terms for stars, directors and authors. Variety story details. They have pledged not to bid against each other for scripts and not to accept directors and stars who refuse to modify their usual demands in the early part of a show's run. Trade paper also reports producers have agreed on cooperative methods to decrease display ad space.

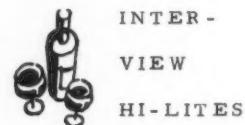
### CULTURAL BILLS PROMOTED

A group of theatre and education leaders to promote two federal bills concerned with the arts has been formed by Arnold Maremont, co-producer of Chicago's *Medium Rare*. The bills are HR 5203 and S-1154 introduced by Rep Wayne Hays and Sen J W Fulbright. They would authorize the President to provide for educational exchanges of American citizens and citizens of foreign countries and they would consolidate all laws dealing with the exchange programs. Committee members from theatre include - Leonard Bernstein, Ralph Bellamy, Kermit Bloomgarden, Lillian Gish, Cornelius Otis Skinner, Jerome Robbins.



"The Art of Ruth Draper", four sides recorded at Vanderbilt Theatre, NYC Jan 1954, released by Spoken Arts, Inc, recommended by Aston, World Telegram & Sun. Nine sketches presented by most moving actress in her own fashion, show that what she did on the stage was showmanship that has now crystalized into a living monument to her art... MGM Records release of Carson McCullers reading from her *Member of the Wedding* also approved as a moving, touching record.

Carnival original cast album (MGM) cries out for Gower Champion's skill, the special atmosphere of the show and his direction is fully conveyed only in Pierre Olaf's rollicking singing of "Grand Imperial Cirque de Paris" Wilson, Times, vetoes. Somewhere in the transfer from stage to disc much of Champion's magic has been lost... The Happiest Girl in the World original cast album (Columbia) okayed for periods when Cyril Ritchard is in charge by Times music reviewer, otherwise it settles into blandness despite its sound foundation of music... Donnybrook! original cast album (Kapp) received a mild con vote from Times man for its serviceable score that lacks distinction because the evocation is achieved by following obvious stereotypes.



LEE STRASBERG, Actors Studio co-founder, told an Actors Studio class last month that the future of the Studio is uncertain, at the moment we have reached a dead end, reports Hyams, Herald Tribune. Until the position of its co-founder Elia Kazan is clarified, with the Studio as well as with the Lincoln Center Repertory Co, to which Kazan has been named director, activity at the Studio is halted, Strasberg told the Herald Tribune columnist. Strasberg had prior hopes of participating in the Lincoln Center but admits it does not seem likely now. The theatre in general seems to have reached the same situation whereby certain generalized hopes have not been realized, he continued. Too much has been thought of only from the point of economics, which has never been and should not be the decisive factor in artistic activity.

STANLEY PRAGER, *Come Blow Your Horn* director, believes there is nothing wrong with theatre that won't cure itself, he told Aston, World Telegram & Sun. There is a yearning for theatre all across the country. All of a sudden all cost factors in the Broadway industry will take a common drop. The conscientious, far-seeing, idealistic people-not the few greedy ones- will keep Broadway alive and within reach of middle-incomes.

YVETTE SCHUMER, Off Beach Theatre Club, Westhampton Beach, NY, producer, modeled her summer theatre club after the English theatre club, she told Porterfield, Times. Restricted to 300 the group is using a converted store that will have rear picture windows opening onto a patio and a swimming pool, and will also feature a bottle club. Five new plays will be presented with "extras" including foreign films, "new sounds in music" and poetry. With memberships already sold out, 60% are theatre people and 40% year round residents.



GREEN  
ROOM  
DEPARTMENT

**RODGERS & 'TALENT'...** There will never be another Rodgers & Hart, or a Rodgers & Hammerstein, as a permanent team, explains Coleman, *Mirror*. From now on it will be lyricist-composer-showman Richard Rodgers and gifted ones who may come up with the right books at the right time. Announcement of musical for next season by Rodgers and Samuel Taylor, coming before a possible show by Rodgers and Alan Jay Lerner proves that there is no permanent partnership in range.

**COLUMN TIPS...** Graham Greene and Jean Anouilh are now meeting in Paris to consider writing a comedy -with-suspense, whispers Farrell, *World Telegram & Sun*... Matt Cimber to direct next season's Lindsay and Crouse musical, *hears Davis, News...* Tom Ewell to tour next season in one man show on American history, notes Lyons, *Post*.

**BARD ALL AROUND...** It is a mark of confidence-almost cockiness-of the Canadian Shakespeare Festival that it should have decided to make up its present season with three of Shakespeare's least-loved plays, and it is an indication of the sustained artistry the company has arrived at that it should have brought off all three of the trouble makers, sums Kerr, *Herald Tribune*... Canada's Stratford may lack the shrines of the mother country's Stratford, but the spirit of the playwright and poet overflows the town and the visitors it attracts, adds Taubman, *Times*... Stratford, Conn, production of *Macbeth* marked as a good, straight, clear spoken thriller by Chapman, *News*. But reviewer thought *As You Like It* in modern dress was too cute with characters so intent on being mannered that they were in danger of forgetting Shakespeare. Chapman hears that some of this cuteness has been eliminated since the first press performance.

**CRITICAL THOUGHTS...** The stagehands union, which remains adamant in their demands for more wages after Broadway's roughest year, forgets that if they kill the Golden Goose nothing's left to eat but the feathers, reminds Winchell, *Mirror*... With Noel Coward doing everything on his *Sail Away* show including designing the posters, Sobol, *Journal American*, wonders why he also doesn't man the box-office... Is David Susskind cancelling his plans to present *Requiem for a Heavyweight* on Broadway because the great idealist thinks he can make more money out of it as a film, asks Coleman, *Mirror*.

**DRAMA MAIL BOX...** NY Repertory Co choice of plays panned by Times reader. Surely if some thought were given the matter the choice would not only more truly reflect American life, but would also present the image we wish to create... Replace the uncouth apes who run NYC box-offices with reasonably intelligent, courteous people who are there to help the public buy theatre tickets, urges a *Herald Tribune* reader.

**FAR FLUNG CRITICS...** Watts, *Post*, currently on vacation tour of Asia, this week India... McClain, *Journal American*, in Europe... Kerr, *Herald Tribune*, vacationing in London.



PROS & CONS BY TMK

Red Eye of Love is a wild, wacky, witty full-blown satire on the American Literary Way- be it prose, poetry , plays, films, radio, TV and/or just plain reading. Brilliantly acted and directed, this first play directed by a new director, presented by a new producing group, acted by a talented cast of professional newcomers is a perfect example of what Off Broadway was invented for. The funny and often slapstick chronicle comedy really isn't as " avant-garde" as its promoters think it is. For sheer good fun, fine theatre and a stimulating evening, plus low prices and a comfortable air-conditioned playhouse, this new play is a delightful introduction to those who have been hesitating wandering Off Broadway.

\*

West of the Moon and The Blood Bugle twin- bill opening at New Playwrights Theatre was a disappointment on all counts. The choice of two original American playlets that survived planned opening program of four short works shows a complete lack of courage by authors and producers to explore much past the bounds set forth by mere imitations of Albee and Beckett. The cast chosen could not adjust to the tiny theatre and its effective air-cooling system. The tiny 66 seat theatre might be just right for the stated premises of the new group, next time round.

\*

Off Broadway next season will continue to sprout a new kind of theatre enterprise. Many producers angry with the inflated rental prices and terms have decided to invest in the construction of their own theatres . The savings in pre-production and weekly running expenses will be enormous, plus the potential revenue from renting when they have no productions of their own. In thus cutting expenses these " Do-It-Yourself" producer-owners should remember the loyal audiences. They should at least consider lowering Off Broadway admission prices in a sensible ratio to Broadway ticket prices. There is no sane justification for \$4.85 Off Broadway when \$2 balcony tickets and \$2.50 "twofers" are available on Broadway.

\*

Though committees are usually formed in the theatre industry at the drop of a luncheon cocktail, no one has yet taken up the long-standing offer of Coleman, *Mirror*, to finance a small group determined to discover the basic problems of theatre and then to find workable solutions.

\*

Conceivably the opportunity of the century is open to a bright, young book-writer who can come forth with the "right book at the right time" that appeals to Richard Rodgers. As it is now as official as it ever will be that a permanent partnership with Alan Jay Lerner or anyone else will not be formed, a talented newcomer may be able to entice the established professional with an original, polished script.

\*



OUTER  
BROADWAY  
THEATRE  
LETTER

College Theatre

Brecht's A Man's A Man translated by Eric Bentley to be final production of Harvard Summer Players, Loeb Drama Center, Cambridge, Mass, Aug 10, John Hancock director... William Alton, director of University Theatre, Univ of Chicago, appearing in From the Second City revue.

Antigone to be presented by Edward Shanley-Jim Dolan on fall tour of colleges and universities... The Yellow Loves by Howard Sackler to be presented in a revised version this fall by Poets Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, Cambridge, Mass.

Varsity Players, Brooklyn, NY, College production of The Male Animal started five week USO-AETA tour of Newfoundland, Iceland, Greenland, Wilson Lehr director.

New Theatres

Tyrone Guthrie Repertory Theatre opens final two months of fund raising to complete \$1.9 million needed, \$375,000 outstanding. Construction will start in fall with new playhouse slated to debut May 4, 1963.

New repertory theatre will be constructed in a remodeled building at Santa Monica Blvd & Oxford St, Hollywood by Rudy Solari and William Hastings. It will seat 240.

Lurland Woodland Theatre, a new 2000 seat outdoor amphitheatre, to be constructed at Catonsville, Maryland, a suburb of Baltimore.

High School Theatre

National High School Play Production Contest, sponsored by Samuel French & Co, won by Milton, Mass Academy for Charley's Aunt. Second prize to Powell, Wyo, High School for Playboy of the Western World.

Scarsdale, NY, High School production of Our Town cast left for seven week European tour of six countries where they will present production staged by John Hammerly at high schools for free performances.

Annual scholarship for high school student in mid-west to attend Goodman Memorial Theatre School underwritten by Drury Lane Theatre, Chicago.

Summer Playhouses

Garden Center Theatre, Vineland, Ontario, opened 14 week season with The Pleasure of His Company package with Faye Emerson and Reginald Gardiner. Producer Robert Herman will present two new plays by Canadians-- A Button Missing by George C Blackburn and a new play by Patricia Joudry.

Shelley Players, New Scotland, NY, opened sixth season with The Tender Trap, Shirley Kaye producer of resident company, Garrison Sherwood director... White Barn Playhouse, Westport, Conn opens 15th season Jul 22-23 with Piece and Precis a new play written and staged by Lewis John Carlino, Lucille Lortel producer... Music & Drama Theatre Falmouth, Mass, to open season with Twelfth Night.

Cole Porter's You Never Know being revived Jul 5-30 at Red Barn Theatre, Northport, NY with Betty Madigan, Howard Morris... Jones Beach, NY, Marine Stadium to present Sat buffet dinners 6-9 PM at Paradise Island theatre patio... "An Evening with Anna Maria Alberghetti" to be presented Sun, Jul 16 at Oakdale, Conn, Music Theatre... Sap of Life a new musical by Richard Malby, Jr-David Shire, to be presented Aug 22-26 at Williamstown, Mass Summer Theatre, directed by William Francisco. Quartet Productions plan to present it Off Broadway in fall

Tryouts This Week

All Kinds of Giants-a new musical by Thomas Whedon and Samuel Pottle at John Drew Theatre, East Hampton, NY 7/10-15.

The Exchange- by Leslie Mercer at Off Beach Theatre Club, Westhampton Beach, NY 7/13-16.

All You Need is One Good Break- by Arnold Manoff at Phonicia, NY, Playhouse 7/11-16.

The Seventh Day- by Arthur Meiselman at Players Art Theatre, Rochester, NY 7/14-20.

Two Queens of Love and Beauty- by William Hoffman at Bucks County Playhouse, New Hope, Pa. 7-10-22.

God's Little Acre- adapted by Howard Richardson and Francis Goforth at Guthsville, Pa, Playhouse, 7-5-15.

Road Shows

Pirates of Penzance, Stratford, Ont, production directed by Tyrone Guthrie to make limited six week US tour following Phoenix run in NYC... The Tenth Man national company to be directed in Sept by Amnon Kabatchnik.

Shakespeare

Globe Theatre, San Diego, open season Jun 27 with Morris Carnovsky, Douglas Watson... Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, Institute of Renaissance Studies opened with lectures by costumer Lucy Barton, Univ of Texas... As You Like It with Vanessa Redgrave, 24 year old daughter of Michael Redgrave, directed by Michael Elliott at Royal Shakespeare Theatre, England.

London

The Lord Chamberlain Regrets revue censored for second time on pre-London province tour... Mary Mary to be presented next season by Hugh Beaumont... Variety survey counts 61 new productions this season, with 28 flops.

Paris

The Grotto new play by Jean Anouilh will open in Oct at Theatre Montparnasse, the author to direct.

US Repertory

NY Repertory Co opens Latin American tour Jul 12 in Buenos Aires. Santiago, Chile stop cancelled because of new 60% theatre tax, with Mexico City being added to route instead.

Australia

Vivien Leigh picked Dumas' The Lady of the Camellias, Duel of Angels, and Twelfth Night for Old Vic tour opening Jul 12 in Melbourne.

Edinburgh Festival

Sappho adaptation by Lawrence Durrell to receive its first production in English Aug 21 at Edinburgh Festival by Bristol Old Vic Company.

"CD" digests all theatre material in the 2100 pages of 7 NY daily papers of the preceding week. "CD" subscribers are invited to inquire further for more specific data on current reviews, back reviews and out-of-town tryout reviews via mail, phone or drop by for coffee and facts when in NYC.



